

The following claims are presented for examination:

- 1. (Currently Amended)** A method of conducting an auction in behalf of an auction solicitor, ~~[[said]]~~ the method comprising:

publishing from a data processing system a relationship between a first auction variable that is a bid variable and a second auction variable that is not a bid variable ;

and

selecting at ~~[[said]]~~ the data processing system a winning bid in ~~[[said]]~~ the auction, wherein the selection of ~~[[said]]~~ the winning bid is dependent on ~~[[said]]~~ the first auction variable and independent of ~~[[said]]~~ the second auction variable ;

wherein the first auction variable and the second auction variable become contract terms of a contract that results from the auction; and

wherein the value of the second auction variable in the contract is based on the value of the first auction variable in the contract and the relationship between the first auction variable and the second auction variable .
- 2. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein ~~neither~~ ~~[[said]]~~ the first auction variable nor ~~[[said]]~~ the second auction variable represents quantity; the relationship is such that a change in the first auction variable in a direction that is favorable to the auction solicitor induces a change in the second auction variable in a direction that is favorable to a bidder.
- 3. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the first auction variable is delivery schedule and ~~[[said]]~~ the second auction variable is price.
- 4. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the first auction variable is time to complete and ~~[[said]]~~ the second auction variable is price.
- 5. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the first auction variable is a measure of quality and ~~[[said]]~~ the second auction variable is price.
- 6. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the first auction variable is price and ~~[[said]]~~ the second auction variable is warranty period.
- 7. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the first auction variable is price and ~~[[said]]~~ the second auction variable is service contract price.
- 8. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the first auction variable is price and ~~[[said]]~~ the second auction variable is service contract scope.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein **[[said]] the** first auction variable is price and **[[said]] the** auction variable is the provision of one or more articles free of charge.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the data processing system calculates the value of **[[said]] the** second auction variable based on **[[said]] the** first auction variable and **[[said]] the** relationship for each bid as it is received, and makes available **[[said]] the** value of **[[said]] the** second auction variable for display to one or more bidders.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of conducting an auction in behalf of an auction solicitor, **[[said]] the** method comprising:

publishing from a data processing system a relationship between a first auction variable that is a bid variable and a second auction variable that is not a bid variable, wherein **[[said]] the** relationship is such that a change in **[[said]] the** first auction variable in a direction that is favorable to **[[said]] the** auction solicitor induces a change in **[[said]] the** second auction variable in a direction that is favorable to a bidder; and

selecting at **[[said]] the** data processing system a winning bid in **[[said]] the** auction based on **[[said]] the** first auction variable and independent of the second auction variable;

wherein the first auction variable and the second auction variable become contract terms of a contract that results from the auction; and

wherein the value of the second auction variable in the contract is based on the value of the first auction variable in the contract and the relationship between the first auction variable and the second auction variable .

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein **[[said]] the** first auction variable is delivery schedule and **[[said]] the** second auction variable is price.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein **[[said]] the** first auction variable is time to complete and **[[said]] the** second auction variable is price.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein **[[said]] the** first auction variable is a measure of quality and **[[said]] the** second auction variable is price.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein **[[said]] the** first auction variable is price and **[[said]] the** second auction variable is warranty period.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein **[[said]] the** first auction variable is price and **[[said]] the** second auction variable is service contract price.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein **[[said]] the** first auction variable is price and **[[said]] the** second auction variable is service contract scope.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein **[[said]] the** first auction variable is price and **[[said]] the** auction variable is **the** provision of one or more articles free of charge.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein **[[said]] the** first auction variable is quantity and **[[said]] the** second auction variable is price.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the data processing system calculates the value of **[[said]] the** second auction variable based on **[[said]] the** first auction variable and **[[said]] the** relationship for each bid as it is received, and makes available **[[said]] the** value of **[[said]] the** second auction variable for display to one or more bidders.
